

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-8 remain pending in this application. Claims 2, 6 and 9-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The PTO-1449 Form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on October 6, 2006 has been initialed and returned with the Office Action. However, reference AL has not been initialed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the PTO-1449 to indicate that this document has been considered. A copy of the PTO-1449 is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuno et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,552) and further in view of Ito et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,814). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present claims are directed to a broadcasting method and broadcast receiver in which contents are outputted or played in a time period pre-specified by a broadcaster. A play command is broadcast including a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted contents sent from the broadcaster in a time period subsequent to a first time period during which the encrypted contents are sent from the broadcaster.

The encrypted contents are retrieved and decrypted by using the decryption key for output in a third time period, which is different from the first time period, pre-specified by the broadcaster. The decryption key is then deleted after the output from the receiving side.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the presently claimed features of the present invention. In the cited references, broadcasters cannot broadcast contents using a narrow bandwidth and have their users reproduce the contents at a time predetermined by the broadcasters. Furthermore, the broadcast contents cannot be protected against being viewed in any time zone other than that predetermined by the broadcasting side.

For example, Kuno et al disclose that AV data from a broadcasting station can be viewed or listened to only once, but the time zone during which viewing or listening is permitted is limited to that when the program is broadcast (see column 2, lines 63-66). As such, Kuno et al merely disclose that AV data from a broadcasting station can be viewed or listened to only at the time zone corresponding to the "first time period" recited in the pending claims. An object of Kuno et al's invention is that a user can view or listen to the AV data without being limited to a time zone after which the AV data is broadcast (see column 3, lines 55-59).

However, as mentioned above, in the pending claims, contents are outputted or played in a time period pre-specified by a broadcaster. This is neither disclosed nor suggested by Kuno et al.

Furthermore, Kuno et al disclose a means for producing a key which is used for encryption/decoding and a means for transferring the key to a decoding means. However, Kuno et al do not disclose that the decryption key is deleted after the output. As such, Kuno et al do not disclose that the encrypted contents are retrieved and decrypted by using the decryption key for output in a third time period, which is different from the first time period, pre-specified by the broadcaster, and that the decryption key is deleted after such output.

The Examiner agrees that Kuno et al do not clearly point out that the contents retrieved from the storage medium are outputted in a third time period, which is different from the first time period, and is pre-specified by the broadcaster. However, the Examiner's reliance on Ito et al is misplaced as Ito et al fail to cure the deficiencies of Kuno et al.

Ito et al disclose that an input/output processing means is made to perform processing operations in allocated respective time slots (see column 3, lines 27-29). However, Ito et al merely disclose that AV data from a broadcasting station can be viewed or listened to only when the program is broadcast. Ito et al do not disclose or suggest that encrypted contents are retrieved and decrypted using a decryption key for output in a third time period, which is different from the first time period, pre-specified by the broadcaster, and that the decryption key is deleted after output. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By _____
Shrinath Malur
Reg. No. 34,663
(703) 684-1120